

WILD CAMELS IN ASIA.

The "Ship of the Desert" Now Known to Thrive in Cold Countries.

According to a recent dispatch from St. Petersburg the wild camel has been discovered in large numbers in that portion of Asia which lies between Lobnor and Sajuy. This will dispose of the doubts that have hitherto prevailed on the question as to whether the "ship of the desert" really exists in an untamed condition. From time immemorial, says the New York Tribune, two species of tame camel have been in use, namely, that known as the dromedary, with only one hump, and found in India, Arabia and Africa, while the one with two humps is met with in Central Asia, Persia and the south of Russia. Both species figure in the sculptures of Assyria, and are mentioned in the oldest books of the Bible, but always as domestic animals, and no trace exists of their being drafted from their savage state into civilized life. Indeed, it has generally been supposed that the camel never existed otherwise than as a beast of burden, and the few specimens of wild dromedaries which have hitherto been secured by travelers and hunters have been regarded as merely some of the domestic species that had reverted to the freedom of barbarism. Zoologically speaking, the newly discovered wild camel of Lobnor does not differ widely from the domesticated animal, except there is almost an entire lack of hump, and that its sagacity and sense are developed to a most remarkable degree of keenness. And, whereas we have hitherto been accustomed to associate this animal with ideas of the torrid heat of the African and Arabian deserts, it would appear that it thrives nowhere so well as in the coldest portions of Siberia, suffering no inconvenience even from the most severe winters, when the thermometer is many degrees below zero.

COMPOSING ON THE MARCH.

Meody Came to Him in the Ranks, and It Almost Caused Trouble.

Benvenuto Coronaro, the composer, recently published some reminiscences in one of the Italian musical papers.

He was serving once in the army, and was ordered to take part in a long march. On the way a melody came to him. He could not get rid of it. He heard it above the "toots" of the trumpets and the beat of the drums.

Suddenly, the fear possessed him that he might forget the melody; it was necessary to write it down.

Taking courage, he drew his notebook from his pocket and began to write. Of course he lost his place in the ranks, and the sergeant hurried toward him.

"Are you crazy?" he asked. "Take your place in the company at once."

"But I cannot," cried Coronaro. "I must write this down," and he began to whistle the tune in the face of the under officer.

"That was too much," says the composer. "He drew his sword, and was about to strike me over the back when

the captain appeared. The sergeant made a report, while I continued to write.

"What are you writing?" thundered the captain. I handed him the notebook, which he read quickly.

"The man is to continue writing," he went on. "But if that piece (and he pointed to the sheet of paper in my hand) is not played by the regimental band to-morrow morning he will be put in prison for eight days." He then put spurs to his horse and disappeared.

"The band played the piece on the following day."

DANGERS OF PILGRIMS.

Some of Them That Are Encountered on Journeys to Mecca.

The risks of a pilgrimage to Mecca may well make the most earnest Muslim hesitate to undertake that pious duty. Of the sixty-six thousand pilgrims who have sailed from various Oriental ports for this sacred spot during the last six years some twenty-two thousand have never returned, says the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. A few, it is thought, may possibly find their way back by other routes. Many, it is feared, are murdered by gangs of bad-mashes, who are believed to travel regularly by the Jeddah steamers, marking down pilgrims who are possessed of valuables and attacking them when favorable opportunity occurs.

It is said, however, that by far the greater number fall by the wayside on the long tramp from Jeddah to Mecca or Medina. So far as the sea voyage is concerned the return journey is for obvious reasons the more dangerous.

The overland tramp to and from the sacred cities has the effect of lowering the vitality of the traveler, and he arrives at Jeddah in a state which predisposes him to the attacks of epidemic diseases, engendered by the overcrowding and unspeakable filth of the pilgrim vessels.

An Eye on the Main Chance.

A Virginia judge once visited a plantation where the dandy who met him at the gate asked him which barn he would have his horse put in. "Have you two barns?" inquired the judge. "Yes, sah," replied the dandy: "dar's de ole barn, and mas'r has jes' build a new one." "Where do you usually put the horses of visitors who come to see your master?" "Well, sah, if dey's Metodis's or Baptis's, we gen'rally puts 'em in de old barn; but if dey's 'Piscopal, we puts 'em in de new one." "Well, Sam, you can put my horse in the new barn; I'm a Baptist, but my horse is an Episcopalian."

Fecundity of Fishes.

Only the innumerable accidents to which fishes' eggs are subject prevent the overpeopling of all bodies of water containing fish. A single carp has yielded 300,000 eggs; a single cod, 9,000,000; a sole, 100,000; a mackerel, 500,000; a flounder, 1,357,000, and a pike, 160,000. The eggs of one sturgeon when counted numbered 1,567,000, and there is a tradition of a giant sturgeon from which 119 pounds of roe were taken. That would indicate 7,650,000 eggs.

TWO DOLLARS A YEAR.

